

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1046
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC, GW

SUBJECT: FRG COMMENTS ON DIRECT ELECTIONS AND EC
COMMISSION

REF: EC BRUSSELS 7439

1. AUGUST 11 HACH, FORMINISTRY OFFICIAL FOR EC AFFAIRS,
TOLD EMBOFF THAT IN HIS VIEW SEPTEMBER 20 EC FOREIGN
MINISTERS COUNCIL WILL APPROVE FORMAL INSTRUMENT FOR
1978 DIRECT ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. HE
THOUGHT THAT RATIFICATION WILL GO SMOOTHLY IN ALL EC
STATES WITH EXCEPTION OF FRANCE AND BRITAIN. HACH
SAID THAT FRG INTERPRETS FRENCH PROBLEM AS TRICKY BUT
SOLUBLE. HOWEVER, FRG LESS SANGUINE ABOUT ULTIMATE
BRITISH POSITION, BECAUSE MANY FACTORS -- DEVOLUTION,
LABOUR POLITICS, DISPUTE OVER ELECTORAL METHOD --
ENCUMBER LONDON'S CONSIDERATION OF 1978 DIRECT
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ELECTIONS. HACH CONCLUDED THAT, UNDER BEST OF

CIRCUMSTANCES "MUCH POLITICAL PRESSURE" WILL BE NEEDED
AFTER SEPTEMBER 20 TO BRING ELECTIONS OFF ON SCHEDULE.

2. HACH DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN "POLITICAL DECISION"
LIKELY TO EMERGE FROM SEPTEMBER 20 COUNCIL AND "LEGAL
OBLIGATION" WHICH WILL EXIST ONLY WHEN EC-9 RATIFY
AND SET DATES FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS. HE SAID THAT
DIRECT ELECTIONS CANNOT BE HELD UNLESS ALL STATES
GO TO POLLS IN SAME TIME-FRAME, WITH EXCEPTION OF
DENMARK FOR WHICH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN MADE.

3. ASKED HOW FRG VIEWS MAKE-UP OF FUTURE EC
COMMISSION, HACH DECLINED TO SPECULATE. HE INSISTED
THAT FRG WILL NOT SERIOUSLY ADDRESS ISSUE UNTIL AFTER
OCTOBER 3 NATIONAL ELECTIONS, BECAUSE CHOICE OF GERMAN
COMMISSIONERS IS POLITICAL DECISION WHICH TOUCHES NERVE
OF SPD/FDP COALITION. (IN SEPARATE TALK WITH ECON
MINISTER AUGUST 10, CHANCELLORY POLITICAL ADVISOR LOECK
TOOK SAME LINE. HE SAID SPD/FDP, IF VICTORIOUS
OCTOBER 3, WILL ONLY CHOOSE FUTURE GERMAN COMMISSIONERS
IN CONTEXT OF NEW COALITION AGREEMENT. LOECK NOTED
THAT FRG HAS HAD SOME TROUBLE IN PERSUADING TOP PEOPLE
TO TAKE THOSE JOBS.) HACH SAID THAT, AFTER OCTOBER 3,
FRG WILL CONSULT WITH COMMISSION PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE
JENKINS ON ITS NOMINEES, IN LINE WITH INFORMAL AGREE-
MENT REACHED AT JULY EUROPEAN SUMMIT.

4. ON PERSONAL BASIS, HACH DOUBTED THAT CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT'S PROPOSAL TO LOWER NUMBER OF EC COMMISSIONERS
TO 9 WILL HAVE MUCH SUCCESS. IDEA HAS FOUND LITTLE
FAVOR IN FRG, HE CLAIMED, ESPECIALLY IN FOREIGN
MINISTRY WHERE FDP CHAIRMAN GENSCHER HAS NO DESIRE
TO SACRIFICE SEAT HELD BY FDP COMMISSIONER IN BRUSSELS.
HILLENBRAND

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